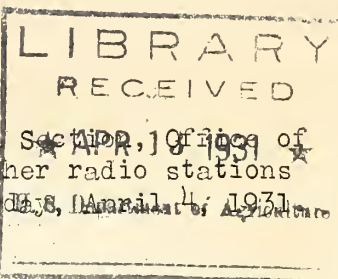


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CLUB WORK UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN



A radio talk by W. A. Lloyd, in charge of Western Section of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered over WRC and 47 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Saturday, April 11, 1931.

One of the fine things about our boys' and girls' 4-H clubs is the sense of neighborliness they produce. Not only is this true in the community but even in a larger way it is true in the county and the state and the nation. As boys and girls grow up into men and women this wide acquaintanceship gained in club work will mean much in understanding, team work, cooperation and friendship between different parts of our own country, and it will help develop that fine tolerance which makes for good-feeling in the great family of nations.

Today I want to introduce the newest member of the 4-H Club family. Let me present Miss Alaska to 800,000 boys and girls. There, Alaska, that greeting was genuine for a smile of good fellowship and neighborliness went out to you from hundreds of club boys and girls in every state and from far off Hawaii. Miss Alaska as a club neighbor is less than a year old. The extension law was just made applicable to our great northern territory on the first of last July. Uncle Sam granted \$10,000 for the first year which is the same as each state received in 1914 for extension work. This is barely enough to employ two people to work in a territory as big as all of the states east of the Mississippi River. Perhaps when you think of Alaska you think of ice, polar bears and glaciers rather than flowers, gardens and fields of grain, but we must remember that even if Alaska does have a long, cold winter, what the summer lacks in number of days it makes up in length of days, and once Alaska crops get started they literally do hump themselves. One day last summer when north of the Arctic Circle on the great Yukon River we had 48 hours of continuous sunshine. The farm country in Alaska is far up there near the Arctic Circle in the real land of the midnight sun and not down in the southeastern Alaska as you might expect.

The two extension workers are Mrs. Lydia Fohn-Hansen, whose name was formerly Miss Jacobsen when she was a college girl at Ames, Iowa, and the other is Ross Sheely who was a "Colorado Aggie" and a county agent in Wyoming. President Bunnell is acting as Director of Extension. Although club work has been going less than a year there are 14 clubs in the territory with a membership of 108 girls and 19 boys; which proves that Alaska is a full sister of the states for the girls far outnumber the boys in club work throughout the country. The first club was organized on the first of July, 1930, just a few hours after the Extension Service was officially set up. It is the farthest north boys' and girls' club in the world and they call it the Alaska Golden Heart Club. Mrs. Peter Grandison is leader. By the way, Mrs. Grandison stopped to see us just a few days ago on her way home from Florida where she has been spending the winter. She is just as enthusiastic as club leaders usually are and proud of the work of her boys. She was stopping at the United States Department of Agriculture to get the first club charter

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issued to an Alaska club. Just to show you that Alaska boys are like other boys in club work, here is a quotation from the report of Larry Gasser, a 12-year-old Fairbanks club boy. Larry says, -

"The season of 1930 has been very bad for gardening because of the late spring flood which made the soil soggy and difficult to till. For that reason I was unable to get my garden planted early which would have made my various vegetables much larger by harvesting. My garden plot is 27 by 11 feet and was seeded the 28th of May. The first vegetable taken from my garden was Swiss chard on the 8th of July. The rest of my vegetables were harvested August 27, the day before the Fairbanks Fair where I took first prize on Swiss chard and biggest variety of vegetables, and second prizes on peas and potatoes which altogether brought me \$3.50 and with the \$5.00 worth of vegetables we used at home, I had \$8.50. I paid out \$2.00 for seed, \$1.00 for fertilizer, and \$1.50 for labor so I had \$3.00 left from my gardening."

There, after hearing that report I am sure you will quit thinking icebergs and think garden vegetables hereafter when you think of Alaska.

Two of the Alaska 4-H Clubs which we organized last summer were made up of Indian, Aleut, and Eskimo boys and girls. It was most interesting to observe the grave dignity of the club presidents, the patriotic salute to the flag, and the enthusiastic singing of the club songs. These native American boys and girls take to club work just as readily as we "foreigners."

The headquarters of the Alaska club work is at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines near Fairbanks, Alaska. Their club organization is thoroughly up to date and began issuing a Territorial Club News last December. The cover design shows an outline map of Alaska with 4-leaf clovers for the map of Alaska." Let us all help them get them by a rousing 4-H greeting. Alaska, we welcome you.